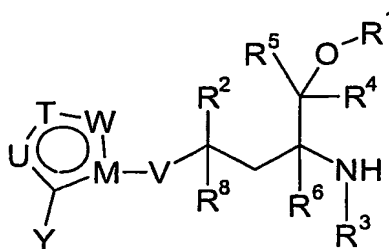


**CLAIMS:**

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

- 10 Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C=CH, NO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO, COCH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHCHO, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub> or NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

- 15 T, U and W independently represent CX, N, NR<sup>13</sup>, O or S(O)<sub>m</sub>, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent NR<sup>13</sup>, O or S(O)<sub>m</sub>; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C=CH, N(R<sup>14</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO, COCH<sub>3</sub> or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

- 20 V represents NR<sup>7</sup>, O, CH<sub>2</sub>, S(O)<sub>n</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>O, NR<sup>7</sup>CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>7</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>S(O)<sub>n</sub>, S(O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C, and when M is bonded to a CH<sub>2</sub> moiety in V, then M may also represent N;

5 R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently represent H or Me.

R<sup>2</sup> represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C2 to 4 alkenyl, C2 to 4 alkynyl, C3 to 6 cycloalkyl or a 4 to 8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring incorporating one heteroatom selected from O, S and N; any of said groups being optionally further substituted by C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, C1  
10 to 4 alkylthio, C3 to 6 cycloalkyl, halogen or phenyl; said phenyl group being optionally further substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, CN or NO<sub>2</sub>;

or R<sup>2</sup> represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1  
15 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO<sub>2</sub> or NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

20 R<sup>3</sup> represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, CN or  
25 NO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

$R^4, R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

$R^{13}$  represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, COCH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> or CF<sub>3</sub>;

5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, wherein V represents S(O)<sub>n</sub> and n represents 0.

10 3. A compound according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein Y represents CN.

4. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, which is:

3-[[[(1R,3S)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-phenylbutyl]thio]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile;

3-[[[(1R,3S)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-phenylbutyl]thio]-5-methyl-2-thiophenecarbonitrile;

15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

20 6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

7. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a  
25 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial.

8. The use as claimed in Claim 7 wherein it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase  
30 that is inhibited.

9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

5 10. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is inflammatory bowel disease.

11. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

12. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is osteoarthritis.

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13. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain.

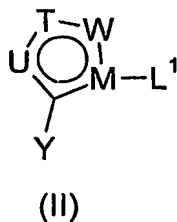
15 14. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a COX-2 inhibitor, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

20 15. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or at increased risk of, such diseases or conditions.

25 16. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, inflammatory disease in a person suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

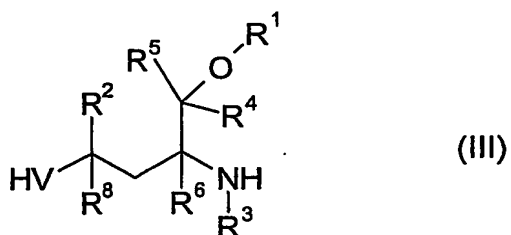
30 17. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



5

wherein T, U, W, Y and M are as defined in Claim 1 and L<sup>1</sup> represents a leaving group,  
with a compound of formula (III)

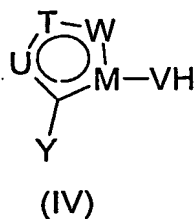


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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and V are as defined in Claim 1; or

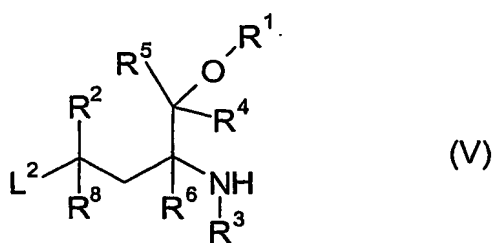
(b) reaction of a compound of formula (IV)

15



wherein T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1,

20 with a compound of formula (V)



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^8$  are as defined in Claim 1 and  $L^2$  is a leaving group;

- 5 and where desired or necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof